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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/607,921	06/30/2000	Hiroaki Yasuda	Q58681	9683

7590 05/21/2003
Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

LU, TOM Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/607,921

Applicant(s)

YASUDA, HIROAKI

Examiner

Tom Y Lu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,289).

- a. As applied to Claim 4, which is representative of claims 1, 7 and 8, Ito discloses an image signal input apparatus for feeding a plurality of original image signals representing radiation image information (Ito at column 6, lines 37-41, discloses “the first image signal SO1 and the second image signal SO2, which are stored in the internal memory of the image processing and displaying apparatus 30, represent a first X-ray image 41 and a second X-ray image 42”. Note the internal memory corresponds to the claimed “input apparatus”. Image signals SO1 and SO2 corresponds to the claimed “a plurality of original image signals”. A X-ray image is a radiation image), an operation processing device for performing predetermined operation processing on the plurality of the original image signals to obtain an operation-processed image signal (Ito in figure 1B shows image signals SO1 and SO2 are inputted to a subtraction process, such subtraction process corresponds to the claimed “operation processing”), an image output device for performing image outputting in accordance with a received original

image signal (Ito at column 7, lines 59-65, discloses the image signal SO₂ is inputted to weighted averaging without any image processing. A weighted averaging process corresponds to the claimed “image outputting”), a transfer device for transferring an image signal, wherein the transfer device transfers at least one original image signal, which is among the plurality of the original image signals, to the image output device (the line connects between image 42 and weighted averaging block serves as claimed “transfer device”), and the image output device operates such that the image output device performs image outputting in accordance with the one original image signal having been transferred (Ito in figure 1B teaches SO₂ is inputted to weighted averaging processing) and such that, when the operation-processed image signal is received from the operation processing device, the image output device performs image outputting in accordance with the received operation-processed image signal (Ito at column 2, lines 60-63, discloses a difference signal S₂ as shown in figure 1B is obtained after the subtraction process, which is inputted to weighted averaging block).

- b. As applied to Claim 5, which is representative of Claim 2, Ito discloses wherein the operation processing device is located on the side of the image output device (Ito shows in figure 1B that subtraction block is aside from weighted averaging block), the transfer device transfers the plurality of the original image signals to the operation processing device, and the operation processing device performs the operation processing on the plurality on the plurality of the transferred original

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image signals (Ito in figure 1B teaches the lines between images 41, 42 and subtraction block respectively are the claimed "transfer device", and a subtraction process is performed after the images are inputted).

- c. As applied to Claim 6, which is representative of Claim 3, Ito discloses wherein the operation processing device is located on the side of the image signal input apparatus (Ito in figure 1B shows images 41 and 42 are stored in internal memory are inputted to subtraction process, which implies they are aside from each other), and the transfer device transfers the operation-processed image signal, which has been obtained from the operation processing device, to the image output device (the line connects between subtraction block and weighted averaging block is the claimed "transfer device").

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Suzuki et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,094,218, discloses Image reading and readout system.
- b. Ogawa et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,278,760B1 discloses Radiation image forming method and apparatus.

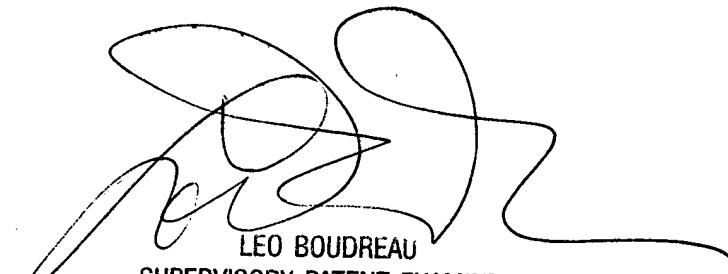
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom Y Lu whose telephone number is (703) 306-4057. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo H Boudreau can be reached on (703) 305-4706. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tom Y. Lu
May 8, 2003



LEO BOUDREAU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600